

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-1209V

Filed: November 30, 2018

UNPUBLISHED

LAURENCE KRATZER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-  
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Danielle Strait, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Seattle, WA, for petitioner.*

*Debra A. Filteau Begley, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On September 7, 2017, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered developed a Vaccine Table injury of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on November 9, 2015. Petition at 7. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On May 24, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for his GBS injury. On November 27, 2018, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$115,000.00. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the

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<sup>1</sup> The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

proffered award. Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer. *Id.*

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$115,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Laurence Kratzer.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**  
Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

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**LAURENCE KRATZER,**

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Petitioner,

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**No. 17-1209V**

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CHIEF SPECIAL MASTER

v.

\*

NORA BETH DORSEY

\*

**SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,**

\*

\*

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Respondent.

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**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

**I. Items of Compensation**

The Court issued a Ruling on Entitlement on May 24, 2018. Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of \$115,000.00, which represents compensation for past and future pain and suffering. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).<sup>1</sup> Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that petitioner be awarded a lump sum payment of \$115,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to the entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.

Respectfully submitted,

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Assistant Attorney General

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Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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/s/ DEBRA A. FILTEAU BEGLEY  
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Dated: November 27, 2018